

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

**Arguments**

The Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, 8, 9, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as lacking antecedent basis.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 3 in light of informalities and objected to the content of abstract of the disclosure.

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 4, 5 and 10-14, as being dependent upon an objected based claim.

Accordingly, the claims 1, 3, 6-9, and 15 are amended and the content of the abstract has been completely revised as desired by the Examiner.

The Applicants state that the present invention sets forth an improved process for the preparation of gabalactam. Claim 1 is an independent claim, comprising the process steps of the invention. Claims 2 to 15 are dependent claims which depend on claim 1. The claims have been properly amended. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now clear and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

The specification has also been amended to maintain consistency and no new subject matter is added. Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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